

County Borough



of Blackburn.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT


For the Year 1919

BY

J. COOTÉ HIBBERT, M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SCHOOL
MEDICAL OFFICER.

BLACKBURN:

"The Times" Printing Works, Northgate.



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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,

BLACKBURN,

January, 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee
of the County Borough of Blackburn.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report upon the work carried out by the School Medical Department during the year ending December 31st, 1919.

The particulars are summarised in the several Tables. As the general procedure has been almost entirely the same as that given in previous Reports, this year's Report is confined chiefly to tabulated statements, which have been compiled by my Chief Clerk, Mr. Fowler.

Dr. Robertson continued to carry out his duties as School Medical Inspector during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. COOTE HIBBERT,

(School Medical Officer).

SECTION I.

SANITARY CONDITIONS OF BLACKBURN SCHOOLS
DURING 1919.

No important structural alterations have been made during the year.

SECTION II.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AMONG SCHOOL CHILDREN IN
BLACKBURN DURING 1919.

DISEASE.	Number Notified or Reported in the whole Borough.	Number occurring amongst School Children.
Scarlet Fever	136	109
Diphtheria	30	12
Enteric Fever	3	...
Measles	103	85
Whooping Cough	169	127
Chickenpox	160	154
Mumps	145	145

No schools were closed during the year on account of the prevalence of measles.

St. Bartholomew's School was closed on account of the prevalence of Influenza from February 24th to March 10th, 1919.

SECTION III.
MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN
BLACKBURN DURING 1919.

Routine Medical Inspection has dealt with the following Groups :—

- (1) Children attaining the age of 5 years during 1919 (1,576 examined).
- (2) Children attaining the age of 8 years during 1919 (1,844 examined).
- (3) Children attaining the age of 12 years during 1919 (2,243 examined).
- (4) Children, chiefly entrants, over the age of 5 years (1,123 examined).

Entrants, under the age of 5 years, are passed in review, the detailed inspection being deferred until they attain that age (352 passed in review).

SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS.—Cases specially referred by teachers or parents and those selected by the School Medical Inspector during general survey of Schools—342.

Parents or guardians of 30.0 per cent .of the children attended the inspections.

The School Nurses paid 290 visits to the various Schools to inspect the children as to cleanliness.

TABLE I.

Table showing Vision* of the Children examined during the year at the routine Medical Inspections.

AGES	Number of Children examined.			Class I. Vision of both eyes normal.		Class II. Vision of one eye normal and of other eye defective.		Class III. Vision of both eyes defective.	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Children over the age of 7 years (chiefly entrants)	41	41	82	36 87·8%	36 87·8%	2 4·9%	2 4·9%	3 7·3%	3 7·3%
Children attaining the age of 8 years during 1919....	924	920	1844	1803 86·9%	813 88·3%	61 6·6%	43 4·7%	60 6·5%	64 7·0%
Children attaining the age of 12 yrs. during 1919 ...	1200	1043	2243	945 78·7%	830 79·6%	151 12·6%	114 10·9%	104 8·7%	99 9·5%
Totals	2165	2004	4169	1784 82·4%	1679 83·8%	214 9·9%	159 7·9%	167 7·7%	166 8·3%

TABLE II.

Table showing Vision of the Children wearing spectacles examined during the year at the routine Medical Inspections.

AGES.	Number of Children examined.			Class I. Vision of both eyes normal.		Class II. Vision of one eye normal and of other eye defective.		Class III. Vision of both eyes defective.	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Children over the age of 7 years (chiefly entrants)	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	1
Children attaining the age of 8 years during 1919 ...	17	21	38	4	10	11	4	2	7
Children attaining the age of 12 yrs. during 1919....	33	40	73	8	15	14	15	11	10
Totals	51	62	113	12	25	25	19	14	18

TABLE III.

Showing extent of the defect in the Vision of the Children
in Class II. of Table I.

AGE.	Number of Children examined.			$\frac{6}{12}$		$\frac{6}{13}$		$\frac{6}{24}$		$\frac{6}{36}$		$\frac{6}{60}$	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Children over the age of 7 years (chiefly entrants)	2	2	4	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Children attaining the age of 8 yrs. during 1919.....	61	43	104	33	21	6	7	9	8	12	5	1	2
Children attaining the age of 12 yrs. during 1919.....	151	114	265	57	49	37	18	30	17	14	21	13	9
Totals.....	214	159	373	92	71	43	26	39	25	26	26	14	11

TABLE IV.

Showing extent of the defect in the Vision of the Children
wearing spectacles in Class II. of Table II.

AGE.	Number of Children examined.			$\frac{6}{12}$		$\frac{6}{13}$		$\frac{6}{24}$		$\frac{6}{36}$		$\frac{6}{60}$	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Children over the age of 7 years (chiefly entrants)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Children attaining the age of 8 yrs. during 1919.....	11	4	15	2	...	...	1	3	1	5	1	1	1
Children attaining the age of 12 yrs. during 1919.....	14	15	29	3	4	5	2	3	1	1	6	2	2
Totals.....	25	19	44	5	4	5	3	6	2	6	7	3	3

TABLE VII.
TEETH.

	Number of Children Examined.			Class 1 (no dec. teeth).		Class 2 (less than 4 dec. teeth)		Class 3 (4 or 5 dec. teeth)		Class 4 (6 or more dec. teeth)	
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
Children attaining the age of 5 years during 1919...	775	801	1576	350 %45·2	355 44·2	222 23·6	222 27·8	106 13·7	130 16·3	97 12·5	94 11·7
Children over the age of 5 years (chiefly entrants)	586	537	1123	192 %32·8	185 34·5	195 33·3	181 33·7	92 15·7	94 17·5	107 18·2	77 14·3
Children attaining the age of 8 years during 1919	924	920	1844	283 %30·6	303 32·9	442 47·9	434 47·2	122 13·2	130 14·1	77 8·3	53 5·8
Children attaining the age of 12 years during 1919	1200	1043	2243	770 %64·2	658 63·1	246 20·5	225 21·6	125 10·4	106 10·1	59 4·9	54 5·2
Total	3485	3301	6786	1595 %45·8	1501 45·5	1105 31·7	1062 32·2	445 12·8	460 13·9	340 9·7	278 8·4

TABLE VIII.
NUTRITION.

	Number of Children Examined.	Class I. Excellent	Class II. Good	Class III. Medium	Class IV. Bad
Children attaining the age of 5 years during 1919	1576	43 2·7%	1410 89·5%	119 7·6%	4 0·2%
Children over the age of 5 years (chiefly entrants)	1123	30 2·7%	978 87·1%	113 10·0%	2 0·2%
Children attaining the age of 8 years during 1919	1844	44 2·4%	1481 80·3%	316 17·1%	3 0·2%
Children attaining the age of 12 years during 1919	2243	55 2·5%	1842 82·1%	331 14·7%	15 0·7%
Total	6786	172 2·5%	5711 84·2%	879 12·9%	24 0·4%

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

EXAMINATION OF CHILDREN AS TO THEIR FITNESS TO ATTEND SCHOOL.

Ordinary School	174
Deaf and Dumb School	2
Regent Street Special School	17
Open-Air Classes	62
Residential School for Mentally Defectives	6

EXAMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS.

Children Holding Bursary Scholarships	23
" " Governors' Scholarships to the Girls' High School	22
" " Leyland Foundation Scholarships...	8
" " Fielding Scholarship	1
" " Henry Harrison Scholarship	1
" " Peel Scholarship	2
" " Daniel Thwaites Scholarship	1

REGENT STREET SCHOOL FOR MENTALLY DEFECTIVE CHILDREN.

Frequent visits have been paid to this School by the School Medical Officer, and the children have thus been kept under medical supervision.

There is much need for a special school (or classes) for backward children and those on the border line of mental defect.

If left at ordinary school, where individual attention is impossible, these children have little chance of making up lost ground, and there is an objection to sending them to a school where there are marked cases of mental defect.

TUBERCULOSIS.

All children attending School who had at any time been notified to the Medical Officer of Health as suffering from Tuberculosis

were specially examined by the School Medical Inspector as in previous years.

43 children were thus examined, and instructions given as regards their further attendance at school.

35 new cases were detected during the routine or special examination of school children and were notified by the School Medical Inspector to the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS "CONTACTS."

Children who have lived in the same houses as cases of Tuberculosis were also examined at school as in previous years.

545 "contacts" were thus specially examined. Four cases of the disease were found among these children.

OPEN-AIR CLASSES.

These Classes, held at Accrington Road and Bangor Street Schools and in the Corporation Park, were carried on as in previous years.

Provision is made for 72 children, and all admissions and discharges are made by the School Medical Officers.

During the year 59 children were discharged from these Classes, as follows:—

BANGOR STREET CLASS.

No. Discharged.	Avge. Duration. of Attendance.	Avge. Increase in Weight.
20	13.2 months.	8lb. 7oz.

ACCRINGTON ROAD CLASS.

9	29.1 months.	13lb. 5oz.
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CORPORATION PARK CLASS.

30	13.9 months.	6lb.
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The increase in weight gained, as shown by the above figures, exceeds the usual average increase of 4lbs. per annum in the normal child. This fact in itself proves the value of these Classes. All the children discharged were improved in general health and physique.

Of the 72 children attending the Classes, two only at the end of the year failed to benefit, their increase in weight being less than an average of 3lbs. per annum, and their general condition remaining stationary.

All the children are medically examined every three months, and their weights and heights carefully compared.

I am indebted to the Director of Education for the following particulars relating to Physical Training and the employment of children of school age :—

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

Throughout the year, boys and girls in Standard V. and upwards, from 18 departments of Public Elementary Schools, have attended the Harrison Gymnasium for the purpose of receiving Physical Training. The total number of attendances made were :— Boys, 21,581; Girls, 20,332. The average weekly attendance was 892.

The lessons have been very much appreciated by the children, who have each week looked forward eagerly to their visits. The instruction has had beneficial effects on the growth and physical development of the children.

One or two additional Centres are required, so as to make it possible to extend the system to all the schools in the town, so far as the upper standards are concerned. Other methods will be necessary to make the scheme of training continuous from Standard 1 upwards.

**Return re Employment of Children of School Age
other than Half-Timers.**

	NO. OF HOURS WORKED.			
	No. of Children	Monday to Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Aged 6 years	1	...	$3\frac{1}{2}$	...
„ 8 „	9	$24\frac{1}{2}$	$39\frac{1}{2}$	3
„ 9 „	43	$217\frac{1}{2}$	$208\frac{1}{2}$	$18\frac{1}{2}$
„ 10 „	102	745	$484\frac{1}{4}$	$29\frac{1}{4}$
„ 11 „	205	$1462\frac{1}{4}$	$993\frac{1}{2}$	59
„ 12 „	137	$994\frac{3}{4}$	$697\frac{3}{4}$	37
„ 13 „	37	$328\frac{1}{2}$	$233\frac{3}{4}$	$6\frac{1}{2}$
„ 14 „	2	$17\frac{1}{2}$	6	...
„ 15 „	1	3	12	...

Number of Half-Timers from 1st April, 1919,
to 3rd February, 1920: 1379.

INSPECTION CLINIC.

Children, excluded or absent from school on account of their suffering from contagious ailments such as Ringworm, Impetigo, Scabies, or from profuse and offensive ear discharge or on account of their being in a dirty and verminous condition, are as far as possible induced to attend the inspection clinic. At their first visit they are seen by the School Medical Inspector, who ascertains the nature of their ailments. Subsequently they are kept under observation at the clinic to see whether adequate treatment is being obtained, and are examined periodically by the School Medical Inspector to decide whether or no they are fit to return to School.

The Clinic is open on Tuesday and Friday afternoons.

1,018 children attended the Clinic during the year, and made a total of 3,087 attendances.

LOSS OF SCHOOL ATTENDANCES THROUGH EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM MINOR AILMENTS (CHIEFLY CONTAGIOUS).

The following Table shows, for the year 1919, the number of School Children suffering from minor ailments requiring exclusion from School, and the number of days (including Saturdays, Sundays, and School Holidays) these children were excluded during the year :—

	No. of Children affected.	No. of Days excluded.
Ringworm	136	8381
Impetigo	457	12086
Scabies	291	25876
Verminous Conditions	165	2238
Ear Discharge, so offensive and profuse as to necessitate exclusion	12	240
Eye Diseases	11	859
Miscellaneous	88	1665

The average period of exclusion for each disease as regards children who were re-admitted to School during 1919 is shown below :—

	Average period of exclusion from School.
Ringworm	61.6 days.
Impetigo	26.4 ,,
Scabies	88.8 ,,
Verminous Conditions	13.5 ,,
Ear Discharge	20.0 ,,
Eye Diseases	78.1 ,,

TREATMENT CLINIC.

During the year the treatment of minor ailments, necessitating exclusion from School, was carried out by the School Nurses under the supervision of the School Medical Inspector. The Clinic is open every morning.

103 children attended the Clinic during the year, and made a total of 1337 attendances, as follows :—

	No of Children Attending.	No. of Attendances.
Ringworm	53	942
Impetigo	38	247
Ear Discharge	8	49
Conjunctivitis	4	99
	—	—
	103	1337

The average period of exclusion for children treated at the Clinic and re-admitted to School during 1919 is shown below :—

Ringworm	42.0 days.
Impetigo	12.8 ,,
Ear Discharge	10.0 ,,
Conjunctivitis	38.7 ,,

In comparing the figures of this Table with the average periods of exclusion from School given above, it must be taken into account that the more severe and chronic cases tend to come for treatment at the Clinic, and that Ringworm is treated by drugs and not by X-rays. It is also found to be difficult to obtain the regular attendance of the affected children for treatment.

An extension of the work carried on at the Treatment Clinic is very desirable, and a special report has been submitted to the Committee on the subject. The suggested extensions include the following :—

- Treatment of Dental Defects.
- „ Defective Vision.
- „ Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids.
- „ Ringworm by X-rays.

The School Nurses paid 1,649 visits to the homes of children found at School to be in a dirty or verminous condition.

INTERVIEWS WITH PARENTS OF CHILDREN FOUND DEFECTIVE.

334 parents were interviewed at the Health Office by the School Medical Inspector during the year.

THE FOLLOWING UP OF CASES FOUND TO BE
DEFECTIVE AT THE ROUTINE INSPECTION.

The work of following up has been continued as in previous years.

Table IV. of the Board of Education shows the extent to which treatment has been obtained for the various defects. It will be seen that only 36 per cent. of the children suffering from dental caries and 35 per cent. of those suffering from defective vision received treatment.

The School Nurses paid 1,231 visits to the homes of children in connection with these cases.

BOARD OF EDUCATION TABLES.

TABLE I.

Number of children Inspected 1st January, 1919, to
31st December, 1919.

A. "CODE" GROUPS.

AGE.	ENTRANTS.					TOTAL.
	3	4	5	6	Other ages.	
Boys ...	30	215	683	520	66	1514
Girls ...	52	258	690	463	74	1537
Totals ...	*82	*473	1373	983	140	3051

AGE.	Intermediate Group.	LEAVERS.					Total.
	8	12	13	14	Other ages.	Total.	
Boys	924	1160	36	4	...	1200	3638
Girls	920	999	44	...	...	1043	3500
Totals	1844	2159	80	4	...	2243	7138

* Entrants under the age of 5 years (352 in number) were not subjected to a detailed inspection, but are included in this total. (See page 6).

B. GROUPS OTHER THAN "CODE."

(1)	Intermediate Group (other than 8 years).	Special Cases.	Re-examination (i.e. No. of Children re-examined).
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Boys	138	1034
Girls	204	923
Total	342	1957

TABLE II.

Return of defects found in the course of Medical Inspection in 1919.

DEFECT OR DISEASE.	CODE GROUPS.		SPECIALS.	
	Number referred for Treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.	Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation but not referred for treatment.
Malnutrition	...	...	1	...
Uncleanliness.				
Head	345	...	19	...
Body	65	...	26	...
Skin.				
Ringworm				
Head	9	...	4	...
Body	5	...	...	...
Scabies	48	...	16	...
Impetigo	56	...	28	...
Other Disease	6	...	...	...
Eye.				
Defective Vision	401	21	53	6
External Eye Disease...	106	4	7	...
Ear.				
Defective Hearing ...	4	2	1	...
Ear Disease	23	6	7	...
Decayed Teeth	944	1	4	..
Nose and Throat.				
Enlarged Tonsils	106	1	2	...
Adenoids	10	...	2	...
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids	40	...	1	1
Defective Speech .....	...	...	1	...
Heart and Circulation.				
Heart Disease				
Organic	15	6	...	...
Functional	2	7	...	...
Anæmia	97	2	5	1
Lungs.				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis				
Definite	1	2	...	...
Suspected .....	...	...	...	...
Chronic Bronchitis ...	67	1	1	...
Other Disease .....	...	...	...	...
Nervous System.				
Epilepsy	1	...	...	...
Chorea .....	...	1	2	...
Other Disease	2	1	2	...
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.				
Glands	5	12	2	2
Bones and Joints ...	...	3	...	...
Other Forms	5	3	1	...
Rickets	6	1	2	...
Deformities	10	3	...	1
Other Defects or Diseases	16	2	6	2

TABLE IV.
Treatment of defects of Children during 1919.

CONDITION.	Number of defects found for which Treatment was considered necessary		Number of defects for which no report is available.	Number of defects treated.	Results of Treatment.			Number of defects not treated.	Percentage of defects treated.	
	From previous year.	New.			Total.	Remedied.	Im-proved.			Un-changed.
Clothing .....	...	23	23	23	23	...	...	100.0
Footgear .....	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	100.0
Cleanliness of Head .....	...	364	364	364	364	...	...	100.0
Cleanliness of Body .....	...	89	89	89	89	...	...	100.0
Nutrition	1	1	2	2	2	...	...	100.0
Nose and Throat	82	161	243	111	20	36	74	44.0		
External Eye Disease	35	113	148	83	29	24	12	81.5		
Ear Disease	27	35	62	23	13	18	7	82.0		
Teeth	314	948	1262	631	126	100	404	36.0		
Heart and Circulation	6	119	125	86	2	16	12	70.0		
Lungs	15	69	84	49	17	10	6	83.0		
Nervous System	7	7	7	7	...	...	...	...
Skin	4	172	176	3	170	2	1	99.4		
Rickets	7	8	15	4	7	7	4	63.6		
Deformities	1	11	12	6	...	3	1	66.6		
Tuberculosis—Non-pulmonary	3	13	16	5	...	8	2	81.8		
Speech	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	50.0
Mental Condition .....	...	9	9	...	...	...	...	...
Vision and Squint	152	454	606	266	16	90	219	35.6		
Hearing	1	3	4	2	2	1	1	100.0		
Miscellaneous	9	22	31	12	3	8	7	63.1		
Total	658	2623	3281	1297	873	355	751	62.1		

TABLE V.

1. The total number of Children medically inspected (whether Code Group, special or ailing child)..	7480*
2. The number of Children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)	72
3. The number of Children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	1707
4. The number of Children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	429

*Entrants under the age of 5 years (352 in number) were not subjected to a detailed inspection, but are included in this total (see page 6).

